

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for increasing message costs, comprising:
2 receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a recipient address;
3 calculating a delay period, in response to the request;
4 dropping the data link;
5 receiving over the data link a next request to route a message to a recipient
6 address;
7 dropping the data link, if the next request was received during the delay
8 period; and
9 routing the message referenced in the next request to the recipient address, if
10 the delay period has expired.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1:
2 wherein the calculating element includes calculating the delay period once per
3 day.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1:
2 wherein the calculating element includes calculating a random delay period.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1:
2 wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a transport layer command
3 which closes the data link.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1:
2 wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a TCP layer "FIN"
3 command over the data link.

1 6. The method of claim 1:
2 wherein the dropping element includes closing the data link at a network layer
3 without sending any message back over the data link.

1 7. The method of claim 1:
2 wherein the dropping element includes silently closing the data link at an IP
3 layer.

1 8. The method of claim 1:
2 wherein the message is an e-mail message.

1 9. The method of claim 1:
2 wherein the receiving element includes receiving over the data link a request
3 to route the message from a particular sending computer to the recipient address
4 hosted by a particular receiving computer.

1 10. A method for increasing message transaction costs, comprising:
2 receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a recipient address;
3 attempting to identify the recipient address; and
4 dropping the data link with the sending computer, if the recipient address can
5 not be identified.

1 11. The method of claim 10:
2 wherein the attempting element includes attempting to verify that the recipient
3 address is valid.

1 12. The method of claim 10:
2 wherein the attempting element includes attempting to verify that the recipient
3 address known.

1 13. The method of claim 10:
2 wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a transport layer command
3 which closes the data link.

1 14. The method of claim 10:
2 wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a TCP layer "FIN"
3 command over the data link.

1 15. The method of claim 10:
2 wherein the dropping element includes closing the data link at a network layer
3 without sending any message back over the data link.

1 16. The method of claim 10:
2 wherein the dropping element includes silently closing the data link at an IP
3 layer.

1 17. The method of claim 10:
2 wherein the message is an e-mail message.

1 18. The method of claim 10:
2 wherein the address is an e-mail address.

1 19. A method for increasing message transaction costs, comprising:
2 generating a first set of faux addresses;
3 making the faux addresses available;
4 receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a faux address within
5 the set of faux addresses; and
6 dropping the data link, in response to the receiving element.

1 20. The method of claim 19:
2 wherein the making element includes, publishing the faux addresses on a
3 public network;

1 21. The method of claim 19:
2 wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a transport layer command
3 which closes the data link.

1 22. The method of claim 19:
2 wherein the dropping element includes transmitting a TCP layer "FIN"
3 command over the data link.

1 23. The method of claim 19:
2 wherein the dropping element includes closing the data link at a network layer
3 without sending any message back over the data link.

1 24. The method of claim 19:

2 wherein the dropping element includes silently closing the data link at an IP
3 layer.

1 25. The method of claim 19:

2 further comprising, treating the faux address as valid for a predetermined
3 period of time, in response to the receiving element; and

4 wherein the dropping element includes, dropping the data link with the
5 sending computer, after the predetermined period of time has expired.

1 26. The method of claim 25:

2 wherein the treating element includes providing a faux validation of the faux
3 address back over the data link.

1 27. The method of claim 26:

2 wherein the providing element includes downloading a file identified within
3 the message.

1 28. The method of claim 26:

2 wherein the providing element includes downloading an image file identified
3 by an image reference within the message;

1 29. The method of claim 19:

2 further comprising, treating the faux address as valid until a number of
3 messages addressed to the faux address reaches a first predetermined number within a
4 first predetermined time period; and

5 wherein the dropping element includes, dropping the data link, after the
6 number of messages addressed to the faux address exceeds the first predetermined
7 number within the first predetermined time period.

1 30. The method of claim 29:

2 further comprising, treating the faux address as valid again after the number of
3 messages addressed to the faux address falls below a second predetermined number
4 within a second predetermined time period.

1 31. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

2 generating a next set of faux addresses;
3 repeating the making, receiving, and dropping elements with respect to the
4 next set of faux addresses.

1 32. The method of claim 19:

2 wherein the message is an e-mail message.

1 33. The method of claim 19:

2 wherein the address is an e-mail address.

1 34. A system for increasing message transaction costs, comprising a:

2 means for receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a recipient
3 address;

4 means for calculating a delay period, in response to the request;

5 means for dropping the data link;

6 means for receiving over the data link a next request to route a message to a
7 recipient address;
8 means for dropping the data link, if the next request was received during the
9 delay period; and
10 means for routing the message referenced in the next request to the recipient
11 address, if the delay period has expired.

1 35. A system for increasing message transaction costs, comprising a:
2 means for receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a recipient
3 address;
4 means for attempting to identify the recipient address; and
5 means for dropping the data link with the sending computer, if the recipient
6 address can not be identified.

1 36. A system for increasing message transaction costs, comprising a:
2 means for generating a first set of faux addresses;
3 means for making the faux addresses available;
4 means for receiving over a data link a request to route a message to a faux
5 address within the set of faux addresses; and
6 means for dropping the data link, in response to the receiving element.

1 37. The system of claim 36, further comprising:
2 means for treating the faux address as valid for a predetermined period of time,
3 in response to the receiving element.

1 38. The system of claim 36, further comprising:

2 means for treating the faux address as valid until a number of messages
3 addressed to the faux address reaches a first predetermined number within a first
4 predetermined time period.

1 39. The system of claim 38, further comprising:

2 means for treating the faux address as valid again after the number of
3 messages addressed to the faux address falls below a second predetermined number
4 within a second predetermined time period.